(c) and (d) The quantum of coal reserves expected to be found in these collieries are as below:

| Name of Colliery | (in Million Tonnes) |
|---|---|
| West Victoria Colliery (BCCL) | 8.76 |
| Religara Colliery (CCL) | 1.02 |
| Madhujore Colliery (ECL) | 7.27 |

It is difficult to estimate the quantity of coal getting destroyed due to mine fire in in-situ condition as there are no laid down norms for calculating the same. However, as per some assessment made by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited in 1980, reserves of coal lost due to fire was estimated at around 37 million tonnes in Jharia Coalfields.

**Commercial exploitation of coal by private parties**

1021. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow commercial exploitation of coal mines by private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to permit FDI in commercial exploitation of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced a Bill namely the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000 aiming to allow Indian companies both in public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to be engaged in exploration of coal in the country. The Bill is still pending with the Parliament.

(c) The Government has reviewed the policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and decided to increase FDI caps to 100% and permit it under the automatic route for coal and lignite mining for captive consumption by power projects, iron & steel, cement production and other eligible activities permitted as per the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.